

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy***

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Emily J. Keifer (619) 557-7465 or John B. Owens (619) 557-5629

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - June 8, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Michael F. Lutz pled guilty today in federal court in San Diego to one count of cyberstalking, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2261A(2). As set out in court filings and in his plea agreement, the defendant engaged in a lengthy course of conduct that caused the victim substantial emotional distress. He also placed the victim under secret electronic surveillance as part of his harassment campaign. The defendant entered his guilty plea before United States District Judge Larry A. Burns.

According to court documents, Lutz harassed the victim on multiple occasions and in multiple ways. For example, Lutz chased the victim throughout a shopping mall, and when she tried to escape, he followed her into the women's bathroom and climbed under a locked stall to confront her. He subsequently fought with police and security guards and was arrested. He also made hundreds of calls to the victim's phone after she made clear that the romantic relationship was over. In addition, Lutz tracked the victim through Global Positioning System (GPS) technology on her phone and by illegally downloading a "keylogger" program onto the victim's computer, which permitted Lutz to spy on her Internet usage. Lutz also created a Facebook

profile in the name and image of another person so he could continue interacting with the victim, despite a restraining order being in place. At the time of his arrest for cyberstalking, the defendant was in the Navy stationed in San Diego but has since been discharged.

United States Attorney Duffy stated, “Cyberstalking is a serious problem that injures millions of citizens throughout the United States each year. My office will work with our law enforcement partners to continue our efforts to bring cyberstalkers to justice, and justice to their victims.”

Naval Criminal Investigative Service Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey Morrow stated, “Stalking is a serious crime that can be an early step in a chain of events that ends in violence against its victims. NCIS will use all the tools available under the law to investigate these crimes and will use its resources, like its Threat Management Unit that worked on this case, to stop this behavior before it ends in tragedy.”

Judge Burns set a sentencing hearing on September 19, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

DEFENDANT

Case No. 11CR1513-LAB

Michael F. Lutz

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section 2261A(2) - Cyberstalking
Maximum penalties: 5 years in prison and mandatory restitution.

INVESTIGATING AGENCY

Naval Criminal Investigative Service